

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN
OKINAWA BUREAU
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96239**

5 March 1981
MOK-019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Okinawa Bureau--February 1981

I. GENERAL

A. A noteworthy change of military command took place during the month. Brig. Gen. Thomas G. McInerney replaced Maj. Gen. (selectee) James Brown as commander of the 313th Air Division at an 11 February ceremony on Kadena Air Base, conducted by Lt. Gen. William Ginn, Commander USFJ. General McInerney comes to Okinawa from the Philippines where he was commander of the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing at Clark Air Base. The Bureau Chief and wife attended the change of command ceremony and the subsequent reception.

B. With Okinawa's reservoirs at around 30% capacity, water rationing was imposed late in the month, the second time this has happened in the past year. Water is turned off island-wide (except for Kadena AB) from 2200 to 0600 each day. Kadena base officials are urging strict voluntary compliance rather than a daily shutoff, as the latter causes too many ruptured pipes when water pressure is returned to normal.

C. The dollar continued its gradual climb in value against the yen. The official exchange rate for March has been set at ¥208, up from ¥205 in February.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. February was one of the slowest months in recent memory with an average daily file of just over 30,000 words. With output on

China continuing at a low level for some months, we proposed that some PRC regional stations normally covered by Hong Kong Bureau be transferred temporarily to our coverage. Headquarters and Hong Kong agreed. This will keep our monitors more fully occupied and give Hong Kong some relief. This coverage transfer was effective 4 March.

2. A temporary teletype paper shortage island-wide forced us to cut back on some press coverage and take additional measures in-house to conserve dwindling supplies. We stopped backstop coverage of SPK and KPL and coverage of VNA French and Hanoi point-to-point transmissions. Bangkok temporarily assumed responsibility for the point-to-point casts.

3. With the concurrence of FCS, we dropped coverage of [redacted] after determining that it repeated material available on other casts.

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B. Technical

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2. KYODO reported during the month that test transmissions of newspaper data, facsimile and photographs via the "Sakura" communications satellite were completed successfully during the month. This indicates that in the not too distant future Japanese newspapers may be transmitted via satellite and presumably will be available on Okinawa on day of publication. We will be watching developments in this area. //

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. February was a month of good news for our Foreign National employees. Headquarters advised that a long-awaited upgrading of monitorial and associate editor positions had been approved; also welcomed was news that I&NS had revised regulations requiring employees with PRA status to travel to U.S. territory every two years. While the major impact of this ruling will be financial savings to our PRA's, the bureau may also stand to gain in the long run as some employees may now find it to their advantage to defer or not take EOT leave every two years.

2. [] one of our veteran Chinese shift supervisors, passed the 30-year mark with FBIS. A brief ceremony to mark the occasion was held in the bureau Chief's office 11 February.

3. Chinese monitor [] was hospitalized on 26 February for the removal of a large cyst. Stephen appears well on his way to recovery and was released from the hospital on 3 March.

B. Buildings & Grounds

Renovation work for the housing area central air conditioning project continued during the month, and an end to this long-term project is now in sight. Ducting and dropped ceilings have now been installed in all but two houses. Work on one of the remaining two will get underway in a few weeks; the final house will be done in July upon departure of a staff employee.

IV. VISITS

From the Bureau: [] to Hong Kong for R&R and a cruising survey (28 Jan - 21 Feb).

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Bureau Chief

Attachments:

- A. Production Report
- B. Logistics Report

cc: Chief, Bangkok Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau
Chief, Seoul Bureau